



**Universal Acceptance Day Uruguay - May 26 , 2025**

## **Presentation of ISOC LAC**

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### **1. Space approach: Interaction, not traditional presentation**

From the outset, Christian made it clear that he wouldn't be using slides, seeking an open and interactive dynamic. He invited the audience to interrupt with questions at any time, prioritizing dialogue over a one-way presentation.

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### **2. ISOC's Role and Structure**

He explained that ISOC has been in existence for over 30 years and was founded to protect and promote an open, global Internet model centered on multilateral collaboration. The organization supports a decentralized and evolving network, and its work is aligned with values such as universal access and the preservation of open standards.

ISOC chapters (such as ISOC Uruguay) are a fundamental part of its structure, charged with applying global principles in local contexts.

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### 3. Evolution of technical and political priorities

- In its early days (1992), ISOC focused on protecting the independence of technical bodies such as the IETF, which were fundamental to the development of open Internet standards.
  - The priority was then to expand Internet access, especially in Latin America, by connecting universities to stimulate local development of the network.
  - In later stages, the focus shifted to technical issues such as low IPv6 adoption and scalability problems.
  - More recently, network security and collaborative governance have become key priorities, including protecting the multistakeholder model from attempts at excessive top-down or state regulation.
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### 4. Universal Acceptance: An emblematic case of the multistakeholder model

O'Flaherty emphasized that problems like *Universal Acceptance* (UA)—ensuring that domain names and emails work regardless of language or script— **cannot be solved with laws or decrees** .

They require technical coordination between multiple actors, from software developers to server administrators, following open and voluntary processes. Attempting to impose solutions through regulatory means does not solve the problem and, in many cases, actually complicates it. The only effective path is coordinated technical work at a global level.

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### 5. Explanation of the layered model (inspired by ICANN)

He used the layered model to show the complexity of the Internet:

- **Lower layer:** Infrastructure and telecommunications, heavily regulated by states. Examples: spectrum management, fiber optic installation, mobile services. It 's logical that there are rules strict .

- **Top layer:** Social uses, domain names, digital services, protocols. At this layer, problems cannot be solved with traditional control tools. This is where challenges such as Universal Acceptance and routing security arise.
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## **6. Practical example: secure routing (MANRS).**

He cited the case of insecure routing as one of the challenges addressed by ISOC more than a decade ago. Rather than waiting for government regulation, the technical community created the now autonomous **MANRS project**, which has achieved significant progress through voluntary cooperation, without the need for legal obligations.

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## **7. Criticisms to approaches regulatory inadequate**

- He explained that governments often try to solve complex internet use problems with inappropriate technical solutions, such as weakening encryption to combat crime.
  - He argued that such approaches are not only ineffective, but also undermine the internet and its core values.  
For example, even if encryption is weakened, criminals will migrate to other platforms, and the damage will be borne by ordinary citizens.
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## **8. Clash between the technical and the political**

He also referred to cases in which states attempted to intervene in international interconnection or data traffic for economic or strategic purposes. ISOC maintains that these issues should be addressed in specialized technical forums, and not through centralized impositions.

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## **9. Call to Action and Conclusion**

Christian concluded by emphasizing the importance of all stakeholders—technicians, politicians, academics, operators, users—being actively involved in defending the collaborative model of the Internet. He asked participants to approach ISOC chapters when they identify problems that require a community

response, in order to build solutions that do not destroy the balance and functionality of the Internet.

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